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Traffic signs going up on I-70  
Variable messages to advise drivers of safety issues in county's corridor

By LE ROY STANDISH/The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel

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The Colorado Department of Transportation is proceeding with the purchase and placement of several variable message signs for the Interstate 70 corridor through Mesa County at a cost of nearly \$1 million.

CDOT signs will be installed this week and will hang over the interstate in Clifton and near Loma. Next week, more of the signs will be placed from De Beque to Vail Pass.

CDOT officials say the signs are part of a program, Intelligent Transportation Systems, started before the recession and are vital to the safety of motorists and the travel of goods through the I-70 corridor.

"This is an important safety issue," said Nancy Shanks, CDOT spokeswoman. "The I-70 corridor is vital for east/west travel. There are no viable alternative routes."

The signs cost \$100,000 each. Installation costs up to another \$200,000, according to CDOT.

Drivers should be aware of lane closures through the nighttime hours as crews work to install the signs. There will be 20-minute closings of the highway in the direction of travel the signs face as the final installation takes place, according to CDOT.

Variable message signs

- 26 feet long by 8.6 feet high
- Signs are cantilevered above highway
- Purchase and installation costs between \$250,000 and \$300,000

Locations this week:

- Loma – Eastbound I-70, mile marker 14.25 – Was installed 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Tuesday.
- Clifton – Westbound I-70, mile marker 37.32 – Installed 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Wednesday
- Clifton – Eastbound I-70, mile marker 37.6 – Installed 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. today

Locations next week:

- De Beque – westbound mile marker 67
- Wolcott – Westbound, mile marker 157
- Vail Pass – Westbound, mile marker 189

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